



EAST OTERO SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1
301 RATON AVENUE
LA JUNTA, COLORADO 81050

BOARD WRAP-UP

Board of Education Meeting
September 14, 2020

1. **ROLL CALL** – Ayala, Backes, Derbigny and Leyba.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – **AGENDA APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
 2. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - **Marisa Dickerson - New Hire as Special Education Paraprofessional at La Junta Primary School for the 2020-2021 school year**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED**
 - A. **Personnel Approval**
 - Samantha Vaisa - New Hire as Special Education Paraprofessional at La Junta Junior/Senior High School for the 2020-2021 school year
 - Lisa Campbell - New Hire as Special Education Paraprofessional at La Junta Primary School for the 2020-2021 school year
 - Marissa Rodriguez - Resignation as Special Education Paraprofessional at La Junta Junior/Senior High School effective September 9, 2020
 - Marisa Dickerson - New Hire as Special Education Paraprofessional at La Junta Primary School for the 2020-2021 school year
 - B. **Approve Additional Extra Duty Assignments for 2020-2021 School Year**
5. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Merinda Reisch, Business Manager, said the financial documents for July and August were attached to the agenda. She said there were more expenses the second month of the year than revenue, which put things in the red by \$126,000. Mrs. Reisch said more revenue is starting to come in daily and it will go up next month and we will go from there. **FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED AS PRESENTED**
6. **MINUTES**

Approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 10, 2020 and the Special Meeting on August 27, 2020. **APPROVED AS PRINTED**
7. **PRESENTATIONS**

Cori Hanson, Chartwells Food Service Director, shared a slide show with the Board to explain the behind the scenes activity with food service. He said that since March, over 255,000 meals have been served.

The USDA had schools transition back to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) when students returned on August 24. Mr. Hanson said to date, the USDA has released and announced or extended over 40 different waivers regarding food service and how it operates. There have been a lot of different changes in just a short amount of time. Mr. Hanson said these changes are what allows us to do and operate the program the way we are running it. Below, Mr. Hanson highlighted a few of those:

 - Non-Congregate Meals
 - This waiver allows kids to not be on site. Typically, with a government-funded meal service program, children are required to be onsite and not leave with food. This is the waiver that allows meals to be sent home so they can be eaten off-site in the grab and go format.

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- Meal Service Time Requirements
 - This waiver allows meals to be served outside of the general time. For example, when meals are sent home at the end of the day or if meals are handed out at a non-typical time. It also allows for serving of multiple meals covering one or more days at a time up to 5 days.
- Parent Pick-Up Eligible Students
 - This waiver allows parents to pick up meals for their kids so that the child does not need to be present to pick up that meal. The kids can stay home if they are online or if they feel like they are an at-risk population.
- Meal Pattern Flexibility
 - Under the National School Lunch Program, there is a lot of different requirements as far as the grains that are allowed to be used, the quantity, the amount of sodium, the amount of fruits and vegetables, the types of fruits and vegetables. This meal pattern flexibility allows more flexibility to change on the fly. If an order comes in which has substitutions, which is currently happening a lot, substitutions are allowed as long as the minimum threshold is being met.
- Offer versus Serve (no longer required for high school lunch)
 - Offer versus serve at the high school level has always been required. This has always been done K-12 in East Otero School District, but has only been a requirement for 9-12. This waiver is only being utilized with meals being sent home. In the buildings, offer versus serve is occurring. Students have multiple different options to choose from. When food service does a straight serve model, all of the components have to be provided, not just the 3 that is required for a reimbursable meal.

Director Derbigny asked about offer versus serve, if all food is prepackaged and students go by and choose what they want. Mr. Hanson explained that would be considered a grab and go meal. He said offer versus serve means meals are broken down into five different components: a milk component, a meat/meat alternate component, a grain component, a fruit component and a vegetable component. For a student to take a meal and it be considered reimbursable, for offer versus serve, the student must take three of those five components and one of those components has to be a fruit or vegetable. Mr. Hanson used the example that if a cheeseburger is served with milk, that would not be considered a reimbursable meal. The student would have to go back and grab a fruit or vegetable to make it a reimbursable meal to be compliant. What the offer versus serve waiver says is if we are not doing offer versus serve, all components must be given to the student.

Mr. Hanson said on August 31, the USDA released a waiver transitioning schools away from the NSLP back to the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

The key differences are:

- Eligibility to Participate
 - Under the NSLP, only kids that are enrolled in the district are allowed to participate in the program and tracking is required. Under the SFSP, all children ages 1-18, regardless of where, or if, they are registered can participate in the program.
- Counting and Claiming
 - Under the NSLP, all meals are required to be entered into a point of sale system and all meals have to be tracked via that child's eligibility for free or reduced meals, even if the school is a CEP (Community Eligibility Program) school. Under the SFSP model, a tally sheet is used and meals going out are counted. As long as it is reimbursable, it can be tallied and there is no distinction or tying that to an eligible child.
- Meal Pattern
 - There are still requirements on the same components, but there is flexibility where there are no vegetable sub groups or anything like that. The fruit and vegetable have been combined into one component and it is required that the meal has a certain amount of fruits and vegetables.
- Allowable Programs (Breakfast, Lunch, Snack, Dinner)
 - Under the NSLP there is a breakfast, lunch and snack program and all three can be utilized, which currently is being used. Under the SFSP, there is a breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner, but only two can be participated in. Mr. Hanson said as soon as the SFSP transition was made, he met with Superintendent Lovato and Mrs. Reisch and applied for CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program). This program is aimed at providing food for at risk or after school programs. He said it was typically considered a dinner program, which implementing has been discussed before. This program allows utilization of the snack and dinner program. Mr. Hanson said typically, the snack runs through NSLP and a dinner program was being considered, but with the transition back to the SFSP, there was a

need to find a way to bring back reimbursable snacks. He said because the district runs an extended day, an after school program, like CACFP, can be used to bring those programs into the day. This makes the program whole again and what we are used to.

Mr. Hanson clarified the SFSP has been extended to the end of this calendar year and not the end of the school year. The CACFP program will continue to the end of the school year and the district will continue to reapply each year. Mr. Hanson said CACFP for our district allows the after school programs and bring them into the school due to having an extended day.

Mr. Hanson brought examples of what a breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner looks like and is being sent home with students. Mr. Hanson explained he is gradually working this in, as it is a lot of food and the district is less than a week obtaining approval. Mr. Hanson said things can change quickly and he wants to make sure that everything isn't rushed home all at once. Director Derbigny asked if the goal is to ensure food for a 5-day period or a 6-day period. Mr. Hanson said it will be for a 7-day period. He said it is a lot of food and his philosophy is that we live in a community where lots of kids need the food, but there are a lot of kids that aren't going to take the food if their friends don't take food as well. He isn't sure if it is embarrassment or they don't want to be "that kid". He wants to make sending home food as normal and not a big deal as possible. Mr. Hanson feels this will help those kids will be more comfortable taking food home. He said ultimately this is the goal and we can benefit immensely from helping these kids out.

Director Derbigny asked if students still take their own lunch to school. Mr. Hanson said there are and there will always be students who bring their own lunch. He said we are not forcing food on the students, but his goal is to have the food available at the end of the day and students can grab a bag on their way out the door and the more normal that is made, the easier it is to take food or not. There are also students who bring their lunch from home and also take food home at the end of the day. Mr. Hanson said there is a wide variety.

Director Ayala asked what the bag size looks like for the online students. Mr. Hanson said they can pick up a breakfast, a snack and a dinner (eventually-right now it is a breakfast, lunch and snack) every day between 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. at Tiger Trades Academy (TTA). Thursdays will have additional bags. Mr. Hanson said currently there is between 25 and 35 people utilizing that program. He will open up additional times when more outreach and staff are in place.

Director Derbigny asked if all districts are doing this. Mr. Hanson said not all districts do the same. Each district has their own program and runs it how they choose. They can also opt to use any of the waivers how they want. Mr. Hanson said with his choices, he feels optimizes the programs to the best of their ability and what they are meant to do.

Director Ayala clarified the pick up at TTA being open to anyone ages 1-18 just like the summer program. Mr. Hanson said yes, it is exactly like the summer program.

Director Leyba thanked Mr. Hanson for his presentation and the explanations. She asked him to let his staff know all the planning is appreciated and all that goes into feeding the students.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Lovato updated the Board on the preliminary enrollment numbers. He said as of this morning there are 1399 students enrolled. 212 of those students are online or attend Tiger Trades Academy. He said there are a lot of parents and kids asking when they can begin attending school four days per week. He said we are working on this. There have been some COVID cases in other schools that have been minor in severity. He said it is an "if" not "when" our schools will have COVID cases as well. This is being discussed. There have been several classes at the high school with low student numbers. He said he is looking at possible ways to offer four days to students who want that option. He said he has been asked when parents will be able to make the decision for their children. He said that is a fair question, but it is out of his hands. Superintendent Lovato said the students have adjusted well to wearing a mask and it hasn't been a problem.

Regarding the performance frameworks and the CDE status of the Accreditation Clock for the Intermediate School, everything was placed on a stand still due to not having state testing. Superintendent Lovato said he has a strong sense that state testing likely won't occur this year as well. He said there were issues last week due to SAT testing. The efforts with the Student-Centered Accountability Project (S-CAP) and also the Connect for Success Grant are

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still moving forward. He said one of the biggest challenges with that is going to be how observations will be made at other schools, which is part of the process. He said the logistics are still being worked out.

The bus barn construction is moving slowly. October 15 is the new target date. There was a minor setback last week due to weather. This is part of the insurance claim from the bus barn fire and should issues occur, Superintendent Lovato said he will be working with the Colorado School District Self-Insurance Pool to get things done.

Superintendent Lovato shared the phase transition plans for instruction. He said Bent and Otero counties are working in getting into the Protect Your Neighbor Phase. He said the plans are based on what phase we are, but will take a lot of preparation and it won't happen mid-term. Grades K-8 could transition at the quarter pretty easily, however, high school will most likely wait until semester. There are some cases where special circumstances decisions are made. Superintendent Lovato thanked the counselors and registrars for all they have done. He said it has been extremely stressful on them trying to facilitate schedules. Superintendent Lovato said he can't express enough his gratitude to the entire staff for the resiliency and that they just keep trying.

Director Derbigny asked Superintendent Lovato if he is still short on teachers and paraprofessionals. He said we could still use one or two at TTA, due to the number of kids online that are going to need support.

CHSAA and the Governor have been in the hot seat and there has been a lot of discussion to bring fall sports back to fall rather than moving them into the winter time. He said we would love to play, but want to do it safely. A survey went out this past weekend by the CHSAA Commissioner. Superintendent Lovato said it is hard to justify playing sports if students aren't allowed to attend school full time. Although some sports are currently being played, football seems to be getting the most attention. Superintendent Lovato said his fear are indoor sports and the management of that. He said our large gym is to our advantage in meeting the requirements. He said it is not a matter of "want to" but it is a matter of how to do it safely.

Director Leyba asked Superintendent Lovato to walk through what communication will look like from the school to parents and the community when we have our first COVID case. He said we will follow the direction given by the health department. We would take that information and start the contact tracing partnership with the health department. The ill student would be sent home for 14 days and those in close contact would be quarantined. One case is not an outbreak, but we would likely quarantine and shut down the cohort that the student was in. This is what Swink is going through right now. Superintendent Lovato said a lot of it hinges on the timing, with it not being the time from the test results, but from the onset of symptoms. There is a window of time where the student or teacher gets the virus and it's actually diagnosed officially. For the district, we would quarantine those in close contact and follow the guidelines and rules.

Director Derbigny asked if the person who was infected with the coronavirus goes back to school after the illness. Superintendent Lovato said when the quarantine window is done, they will be cleared and able to return. Director Ayala asked if the parents would receive a text or automated call to come and get their student. Superintendent Lovato said depending on the time of day and where/when/how, the health department would be consulted on how to go about that. The exposure is the biggest concern in that so sending an entire building at the elementary might not be warranted. For example, if it's at the Primary and isolated to just one grade level, that one grade level might be sent home. The Junior/Senior High School would go to an online format for a couple of weeks simply because they share a lot of teachers and it is harder to cohort the high school.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approve Revised Policies ADC, GBC, GCE/GCF, GDE/GDF, JF, JFBB, and LBD on Second/Final Reading (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve Purchase of Replacement RTU Compressor in the amount of \$10,344.03. (Lovato) **APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

11. BOARD COMMENTS

- ✓ Director Leyba said she appreciates all the work and there are a lot of people to thank. She sees the frustrations and discouragements with all the changes. She wants to remind everyone to have patience, be understanding and more supportive of each other. We need to remind each other that we are not doing this

alone and you are not alone in feeling the way that you feel. She said to offer support if someone asks and to check in on friends and co-workers. She said this is a very strange time and appreciates everything everyone is trying to do to make things as normal as possible.

- ✓ Director Derbigny asked Superintendent Lovato what the odds are of a COVID case showing up in a smaller district versus a larger one. He said it is the luck of the draw and said what we don't know is how many have had it and never got tested. Statistically throughout the state, the younger categories are not heavily physically affected. He hears a lot of rumors and the hospital here has been fortunate and lucky in terms of volume. He said he doesn't know about odds and most people would have thought the larger district would have gotten the cases first. He said he wouldn't speculate to it.
- ✓ Director Ayala took a moment to recognize the online platform. She said that is what her children are working with and she said we are very fortunate as her children receive live instruction for most of the day. Director Ayala said Mrs. Ortiz and Mrs. Tracy are doing a phenomenal job balancing all the very many programs that are required to have the kids do all these interactive activities. She said they are making it look like it's just a stroll in the park. She wants to point out their hard work and she really appreciates the effort. She knows it has been quite the jump for them to be completely online to manage those and even in the middle of being live and there are technical issues, everyone comes back and they pick up right where they left off. She said if you are concerned about your child being in an actual classroom she encourages you to take a look at our online platform because this is the first time really executing something on that scale and she they are doing a wonderful job with it. Kudos to them! She also applauded Mr. Hanson and his team for not just feeding the students in our district, but the children of our community. She loves the fact that he has taken that extra step and has made it his personal mission to make sure that we have no children in our community that have to go home hungry. He has gone the extra step of trying to normalize it so children don't have to be ashamed to grab that extra bag. Some might say that's more than his job but that is his heart, caring about the kids. Director Ayala appreciates the extra effort that we are getting from him and his team. She said she feels we are very fortunate to have them.
- ✓ Director Backes asked when we plan on doing any kind of surveys about satisfaction, things that are going well and/or things that are not going well. She said the last couple of Board meetings it was discussed when we might revisit that and thought it was around the middle of this month or next month. Superintendent Lovato said the first draft was done last week. He said the secondary staff has been discussing it a lot. He said he is hoping to release it the last week of this month so we can have numbers on October 17 to see how many want to shift from online to in person and those kinds of things. Director Backes said she agrees with all the thanks and shout outs that have already been discussed, but she thinks this just goes to show that our administration and staff are dedicated to making sure that we learn from each day and try to take on those challenging situations in creative ways. She said it is really exciting to hear we are continuing to still think about things on a daily basis and trying to make things work for as many people as possible, so she thanked everybody again for that.

12. ADJOURNMENT – MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:28 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

DEE LEYBA, President KRISTIN BICKEL, Vice President
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